

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: FOOD NEEDS OF ISOLATED ZONES AND STORAGE OF FOOD
IN THE SAHEL

MONROVIA FOR DONALD S. BROWN, ROME FOR FODAG, PARIS FOR
HELMAN, USEC BRUSSELS FOR MARTIN, LONDON FOR BAAS

1. BY NOW, EMBASSIES/ADOS/AND SAHEL GOVERNMENTS HAVE
RECEIVED THE FAO MULTI-DONOR MISSION SURVEY SUMMARY REPORT
AND COUNTRY ANNEXES, WHICH WERE AIR POUCHED FROM AID/W
LAST YEAR. EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON RECEIVED COPIES OF THE
REPORTS, IN FRENCH. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST IN THE REPORTS
WERE THE COMMENTS ON THE FOOD NEEDS OF ISOLATED ZONES IN
THE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES, TO BE PRE-POSITIONED BEFORE THE
ADVENT OF THE RAINY SEASON.

2. WE ARE MOST INTERESTED TO KNOW THE RECEPTION BY
EMBASSIES/ADOS AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO THE FAO MISSION
FIGURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE NEEDS OF ISOLATED
ZONES (TABLE IV OF SUMMARY, PAGE 10), AND WHAT PLANS OR
PROPOSALS EACH OF THE COUNTRIES HAS MADE TO DATE OR IS NOW
CARRYING OUT TO INSURE THE PRE-POSITIONING OF ADEQUATE
QUANTITIES OF FOOD IN ADVANCE OF THE RAINS IN THE REMOTE
REGIONS.

3. HAVE ANY OF THE COUNTRIES, AS AN EXAMPLE, DECIDED
THAT A PORTION OF THE INCOMING GRAIN WILL BE SET ASIDE
NOW FOR TRANSPORT TO THE ISOLATED ZONES TO BE STORED
UNTIL NEEDED? WHILE THE FAO TABLE MENTIONS UPPER VOLTA'S
PRE-POSITIONING IN ISOLATED ZONES NEED AS APPROXIMATELY
22,500 MT, AS AN EXAMPLE, THE COUNTRY REPORT INDICATES
THERE IS NO STORAGE IN ANY OF THE SEVEN TOWNS LISTED AS
NEEDING THE 22,500 MT. WHAT PLANS DO THE GOUV OR OTHER
DONORS HAVE TO CONSTRUCT STORAGE IN THE NORTHERN REGION IN
ORDER TO PRE-POSITION THE NEEDED QUANTITIES? IN CHAD, THE
REPORT DISCUSSES CENTRAL STORAGE POINTS TO HOLD 34,200 MT
OF GRAIN, AND THE COUNTRY REPORT MENTIONS AVAILABLE WARE-
HOUSING. IN THIS INSTANCE, THE FED PROPOSAL TO CONSTRUCT
10,800 MT OF STORAGE (18 STORES OF 600 MT EACH) APPEARS
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MOST INTERESTING - BUT NONE OF THE PROPOSED STORAGE SITES
ARE IDENTIFIED AS TO LOCATION.

4. FROM OUR STANDPOINT, THE NEED FOR PRE-POSITIONING IS
OBVIOUS. NOT ONLY ARE THE MOST AFFECTED PEOPLE SERVED
BETTER ON A CONTINUOUS BASIS, BUT THE POSSIBILITY OF
ENGAGING IN EXPENSIVE AIRLIFT IS REDUCED. IF THE STORAGE
FACILITIES DO NOT EXIST, WE NEED TO KNOW IF THEY ARE

PLANNED. AND, WILL THEY BE UP IN TIME TO PERMIT THEIR USE FOR PRE-POSITIONING? IF THE NEW STORAGE FACILITIES WILL NOT BE UP IN TIME, WHAT ALTERNATIVE PLANS DOES THE GOVERNMENT HAVE TO PROVIDE GRAIN TO THE AREA PRIOR TO THE RAINS? WILL THERE BE DISTRIBUTION DIRECT TO THE NEEDY PEOPLES WITH THE INDIVIDUAL FAMILY UNITS BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR STORAGE?

5. ACTION REQUESTED: ADDRESSEE POSTS ARE ASKED TO CONSIDER THE FAO REPORT FIGURES FOR NEEDS IN THE ISOLATED ZONES AGAINST PRESENTLY AVAILABLE STORAGE IN THE SAME AREA, AND TO ADVISE WHAT MEASURES ARE CONTEMPLATED BY THE GOVERNMENTS/DONORS TO PROVIDE NEW STORAGE FACILITIES AND OTHER MEASURES NECESSARY TO PERMIT SIGNIFICANT PRE-POSITIONING OF GRAIN IN ISOLATED ZONES PRIOR TO THE RAINY SEASON. DO THE GOVERNMENTS INTEND TO INSURE SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES OF THE GRAIN CURRENTLY ARRIVING IN THE REGION ARE SET ASIDE AND TRANSPORTED TO THE REMOTE AREAS (BILMA, NEMA, OR ABECHÉ, FOR EXAMPLE)? WE BELIEVE IT MOST IMPORTANT EACH GOVERNMENT ADDRESS THE PROBLEM ON AN URGENT BASIS, AND THAT EMBASSY/ADOS NOTIFY US IN BRUSSELS (US MISSION EC BRUSSELS FOR MARTIN) PRIOR TO THE MEETING ON FEBRUARY 12, THEIR ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION AND THE LATEST INFORMATION ON PRE-POSITIONING AND STORAGE FROM

THE GOVERNMENT. IN ADDITION, WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONTINUE TO IMPRESS UPON EACH OF THE GOVERNMENTS THE NECESSITY TO CONSTRUCT STORAGE AND PRE-POSITION GRAIN IN THE REMOTE REGIONS AS A MATTER OF POLICY. KISSINGER

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